

INFORMATION REPORT

PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY

Bulgaria

SUBJECT

Georgi Dimitrov Locomotive Factory/
Unemployment and Labor Conditions

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Georgi Dimitrov Locomotive and Railroad Car Factory is located near the central station in Sofia and includes the former railroad workshop, the central depot, and the railroad repair shop. It is the largest enterprise of the Bulgarian railroads. Slaveho Stoyanov, a Dimitrov prize winner, is the chief engineer of the plant. Christo Todorov is chairman of the Trade Union Organization, that is, he is the chief of the central organization in the plant as there are also such organizations in individual sections of the plant. Ivan Stankov, an officer in the Bulgarian Army, is simultaneously the secretary of the Party organization in the plant.

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2. The plant produces rollers used for making and repairing roads and the Dimitrovs steam shovels with a capacity of seven tons. These steam shovels are used in construction of dams, in mining and in general construction. The plant produces mine cars for mines and for transporting purposes in the cement and railroad transport industry. Railroad car parts, parts for locomotives and rails are also made. Thus far only one locomotive has been produced by the plant, which is not very good and only serves for propaganda purposes. The plant has a steel forging shop where various steel parts are produced for the needs of the plant. This plant is connected as regards production, with the railroad car and instrument plant in Dryanovo which builds railroad car and trolley frameworks. Most plants are under the control of Soviet specialists, Kozlovski, Kuklin, and Sokolov. Much of the plant work is for military purposes.

3. Up to the beginning of 1953 labor was needed especially for constructing dams and plants such as the Karl Marx Soda Plant, the Lead and Zinc Plant near Rudzhali, which is still not finished, the Cellulose Plant in Krishim (Gara), the Lenin Metallurgical Plant in Dimitrovo, the Cement and Chemical Combine in Dimitrograd, etc. However, since that time there has been unemployment in Bulgaria. Many engineers work as mechanics and ordinary technical managers, and workers go from city to city looking for work. The workers are poorly paid, and work conditions are bad.

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Unemployment in Sofia 50X1-HUM

is great. Going early in the morning to construction projects, one would see many unemployed workers. The people who lost employment could not take a different job until they received a special permission from the enterprise which released them. Such permissions or certificates (udostoverenie) are given to Communists.

5. Not a single peasant fulfilled the state delivery quotas. The non-fulfillment of plans started with plowing, planting, harvesting, threshing, as well as by not repairing large agricultural equipment, such as tractors, sowers, threshers, and combines, from the machine tractor stations. The farmers and farm workers who did not fulfill the required norms have been put into special labor brigades (trudova brigada). This labor brigade replaces the re-education camps. In the labor brigades, farmers are exposed to torture and heavy work. One such labor brigade is working in the Polyangrad Resk Quarry. A second labor brigade is in Haskovo. It is working on the highway toward Nemezilgrad. Factory workers openly refuse to fulfill norms and produce poor quality products. For example, if shoes are bought from the 9 September Plant in Sofia and they are made out of rubber, the rubber comes off in no time. If the shoes are of leather, the leather cracks immediately. If these shoes get wet, they are completely useless after two days. The same thing applies to cloth which is of very poor quality.
6. Trials of Communist managers for corruption and theft are not advertised in the press or on the radio because this would cause workers and peasants to criticize their chiefs in the various establishments, plants, cooperative labor farms and machine tractor stations. A trial was held in Sofia of noted Communists who during the entire winter of 1954 were selling hundreds of carloads of coal on the black market, while the people were freezing under the terrible "Siberian" cold. After being sentenced without publicity these Communists were soon liberated and again assigned to responsible places of work. There were many trials in Vidin, Stara Zagora, and Plovdiv, for theft of bread grains from state storage places. This grain was also sold on the black market. In all accounting services of the ministries, enterprises, etc, accountants steal large sums, give fake documentation and reports. Notable Communists are responsible for these corruptions.
7. More than 80 percent of factories, plants, mines, important transportation points and general production is under Soviet control. The frontier guard, the Army, the training of new army troops, military factories in Kazanluk, Lovech, Sofia, Levkigrad, and Sopot, are in Soviet hands. They are completely controlled by Soviet specialists and instructors. Special stores have been established in Bulgaria for Soviet citizens where they pay very little and receive the best products.

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